

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 27, 1923.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1924 was held in its new office in the Interior Department Building, on Thursday, September 27, 1923. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Bacon,
Mr. Nowbray,
Mr. Medary,

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held June 21, 1923, were approved.
2. TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION: The secretary reported that he had prepared and was submitting a tentative draft of the Tenth Report of the Commission of Fine Arts to cover the period from July 1, 1921, to June 30, 1923, stating that this report would be about the size of the Ninth Report, with as many illustrations--about 75 in number. The Commission endorsed his suggestion that this report feature "The Outer Parks", which would make the Tenth Report a sequel to the Ninth Report.

Mr. Greenleaf stated that he felt the time opportune for a comprehensive report dwelling on the Greater Washington development. Also, Mr. Greenleaf said, he was very glad to hear that the Public Printer was making available to the public a reprint of the article in the Ninth Report on the Progress in the McMillan Plan, at 20 cents a copy (Exhibit A).

The secretary reported that the Director of the Budget had expressed great appreciation of the Ninth Report and that indications are that the

necessary appropriation to print the Tenth Report will be allowed. The report would be ready for the press by July 1, 1924, when the appropriation would be available, and be ready for distribution some time in the fall.

The secretary stated that it was his desire to go abroad and visit several European countries, soon after the Tenth Report was issued, and submitted an application for leave of absence beginning about February 1, 1925, for a period of from 2½ to 3 months. This application was approved by the Commission.

3. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT WAR MEMORIAL TABLET: Mr. John Flanagan, sculptor, submitted a design of the model for the War Memorial Tablet of the Agricultural Department. Mr. Flanagan reported that a soldier and a sailor had been detailed to pose for the model and that he had tried to complete the model as far as possible, but that the War Memorial Committee had not furnished him with names nor inscriptions for the memorial as requested.

The Commission considered the design a marked improvement over the preliminary design heretofore submitted by Mr. Flanagan. The Commission recommended certain changes in the ornamentation, fewer emblems, and requested that Mr. Fraser inform Mr. Flanagan personally of the changes to be made in the design.

4. MODEL FOR "MAMMY" STATUE: The secretary reported that under date of July 9, 1923, the following letter was received from Mrs. Ethel Leech Carpenter, of Birmingham, Alabama, with which was submitted a model about one foot in height, for a "Mammy" statue:

"I herewith submit my model for a memorial to the negro mammy of the South. The figure here represented would be six or six and a half feet in height, mounted on a plain base of 7

or 8 feet in height, latter bearing an appropriate inscription.

"This statuette which I had copyrighted in March of this year is the first model of a negro mammy in the country, and would have been submitted very much earlier, but I understood the plans to erect a statue of same in Washington had not materialized."

The Commission advised that Congress not having made any provision for a statue to the negro mammy, the model be returned (Exhibit B).

5. PLAQUE FOR FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE: Captain William A. Snow, Assistant to Major J. A. O'Connor, United States Engineers Office, in charge of Washington Work, submitted informally, at the request of Major O'Connor, a design for a plaque to mark the construction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

The Commission advised that it would be better to have the inscription carefully cut in marble (Napoleon gray), and that there should be plain lettering only. Captain Snow stated that Major O'Connor had expected to be present at the meeting of the Commission, but that he was called out of the city, and that he would attend the next meeting to consult the Commission as to projects under his jurisdiction.

6. STATUE OF GENERAL SAN MARTIN: Under date of September 1, 1923, the Commission received the following letter from the Acting Secretary of State, regarding the statue of General San Martin:

"Having reference to your letter of February "28", 1923, requesting more definite information concerning the design to secure the material to be used in the construction of the base of the statue of San Martin which the Government of Argentina is presenting to the United States, I am now enclosing drawings of the pedestal, photographs of the bas-relief, on two sides, and a sample of the granite used in facing the pedestal, which have been sent to the Department by the Argentine Embassy."

Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, appeared before the Commission in the interest of the statue, stating that he had recently returned from Buenos Aires, where he had seen the original statue, and the bronze figure in the foundry, and that the whole monument is ready

for immediate shipment as soon as permission is received to erect it in Washington; that the citizens of Argentine do not fully understand why there is delay in securing the required authority for its erection in Washington, being unfamiliar with the fact that the approval of Congress is necessary. Dr. Rowe stated that he explained to the Argentine Embassy that the statue could not be placed opposite the Pan American Union, as the Plan of Washington made other provision for the development of this park area, but that recently Dr. E. S. Zeballos, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentine and former Minister to Washington, had been about the city with a view to determining upon an appropriate site and had concluded that the circle at the end of the Connecticut Avenue Bridge, near Ashmead Place, would be an appropriate place for the statue of General San Martin.

The plan submitted for the pedestal indicated that the statue would be without the subsidiary groups of the original statue in Buenos Aires; that there would be two panels, the panel on the right to represent the Battle of Chacabuco and that on the left the Proclamation of the Independence of Peru. The pedestal is to be of bluish gray granite from quarries of Argentine, according to the sample of granite submitted.

The Commission concluded that they were without authority to submit an official report in the matter until the necessary legislation for the erection of the statue is introduced in Congress and the matter is referred to the Commission of Fine Arts by the Committee on the Library,--the State Department to be informed accordingly (Exhibit C).

The architect members of the Commission observed that the design of the pedestal was not complete, that the design of the panels according to the photographs, differed from the outline on the pedestal, and requested that a more correct design be secured.

7. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL: Mr. Medary reported that he had received a letter from Hermann Hagedorn, Secretary of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, regarding the Roosevelt Memorial, in part as follows:

"Will it be convenient for you some time in the near future to have a conference with the Fine Arts Commission and get from them an exact definition of the site south of the White House, with exact boundaries, so that the attorneys of the Association, Messrs. Root, Clark, Buckner, and Howland, can take up with you and with the gentlemen of the Fine Arts Commission the question of drawing up a bill to be presented to Congress at the opening of the new session in December?"

Mr. Medary stated that since receiving the letter he had seen Mr. Hagedorn, in New York, and learned from him that the Roosevelt Memorial Association had given up the idea of having a wide open competition for securing designs, and that they will have a small competition in order to secure designs from the best sculptors for a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in Washington; but that the Roosevelt Memorial Association had quite made up its mind to select the site south of the Washington Monument, but on the axis of the White House, for this memorial, and that there seemed to be no use to discuss with them the site at Sixteenth Street Heights, as it seemed to them too far from the center of the city. However, Mr. Medary said, he had sent to the office of the Association in New York a map showing what the Plan of Washington contemplates for the proposed location south of the Washington Monument, and had informed them that they are facing a development in that location almost as important as the development down from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial, and that it presented a great change in physical conditions and a great expenditure. The expense, Mr. Medary said, did not seem to disturb Mr. Hagedorn.

The Commission again considered the matter of location of the Roosevelt Memorial and noted that probably the Roosevelt Memorial Association had in mind a site, indicated on the Plan of the Mall, south of the monument proposed

by the Senate Park Commission of 1901 for the "Founders of the Republic". . But the Commission felt that this would be a subordinate location for a monument to Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, involve serious traffic problems, and be without the possibilities of a great monument which the site offers at the "Northern Portal" of the city on Sixteenth Street Heights.

Mr. Medary stated that he intended having the subcommittee on the Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in Washington, of which Senator Root is Chairman, meet in the rooms of the Commission of Fine Arts in the near future for further consideration of the project.

8. IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIGHTING SYSTEM FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

Captain John E. Wood, Assistant District Engineer Commissioner, appeared before the Commission, stating that his department had planned, with the approval of the District Commissioners, to revamp the whole lighting system of Washington, at a cost of one and a half million dollars, and that he was submitting 12 designs, ranging from the present standard Millet lamp-post, 10' 6" in height, to the larger lamp-post, 17 to 20 feet in height, for avenues, especially Pennsylvania Avenue, and plazas.

The Commission examined the designs and decided that so far as nine of the designs were concerned the only change, where a difference in height from the standard Millet post was involved, should be to increase the length by adding to the base rather than adding to the ornamental top. The three other designs pertained particularly to the large lamp-posts proposed for avenues and plazas. One of the designs showed two incandescent lights and another three. Mr. Bacon thought that two should be sufficient. Captain Wood stated the third light at the top was added as a matter of convenience, as late in the night the two side lights could be turned off and the one at



the top kept burning,--at the present time every other lamp-post is turned off late at night.

The Commission felt that the large lamp-posts should be redesigned, as they should be of the very best design, and recommended that the matter be brought to the attention of The Edward F. Caldwell Company, very high grade designers of ornamental and artistic metal work, in New York City, and that a model be made.

9. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, TABLET: Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Assistant Director of the National Park Service, appeared before the Commission and requested advice as to a suitable tablet that could be used in the national parks. Mr. Cammerer stated that at the present time many varieties of tablets and "signs" are being used in the parks, and it has been found a difficult matter to keep in control; that the National Park Service desires, therefore, a design which can be referred to as a standard type of tablet. Photographs of tablets on the Decatur House, the Belasco Theater, and one at the entrance of Meridian Hill Park, were inspected. Mr. Fraser stated that Gorham and Company, and the John Williams Company, of New York, have in their catalogs designs of good tablets, but said that he has found that these are not altogether a safe guide, as the companies will not follow the designs shown in the catalogs when they make a tablet which differs in composition from them. Mr. Bacon said in order to get a design for a good tablet it is necessary to recommend a good man to do the work. Mr. Medary said he would send a list of good designers of tablets (Exhibit D).

10. STATUE OF "JUSTICE": Mr. Moore stated that while in Europe, during the past summer he received a cablegram from Secretary of State Hughes, dated July 20th, as follows:

"The photograph, which Department has just seen for first

time, of the model of the statue for Peace Palace at The Hague, prepared by O'Connor, does not seem to convey the idea of impressive dignity or the interpretation of the idea which the Department has been led to expect. After your inspection of the niche where statue is to be placed, Department would appreciate an expression of your views."

Mr. Moore stated that circumstances prevented him from visiting The Hague, and that he was submitting the matter for the consideration of the Commission. Mr. Moore related the important facts in the case,--that it had its origin in 1914 when Mr. Bryan was Secretary of State, who had suggested as a title for the proposed statue "Peace through Justice"; that Mr. O'Connor won in a competition, and his selection as sculptor for the statue was approved by the President; that Mr. O'Connor's first design was submitted in 1915 and disapproved by the Commission; that during the World War nothing was done in the matter, and that the Commission did not hear from Mr. O'Connor further about a new design, until he wrote in the fall of 1922 that he had been at work on a new model for the greater part of the year and wished the Commission to see it. Mr. Moore said that, while in Massachusetts in November, of last year, he and Representative Winslow visited the studio of Mr. O'Connor at Paxton, saw the model and considered it promising of satisfactory results, and that subsequently Mr. Fraser visited Mr. O'Connor's studio, inspected the model and approved it.

Mr. Fraser stated that he still felt that Mr. O'Connor would produce a good statue from that model,--that it has certain artistic qualities, character, strength, and individuality, that it looks like O'Connor's work, and that it is not a mere copy of some existing statue. Mr. Fraser said he felt it unfortunate that Mr. O'Connor should have named the statue "Justice", and that the photograph submitted, which is simply of the clay model, is not a good thing from which to judge the sculptor's work.

The Commission noted that according to the Act of Congress the statue is to be an "Adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague", and that therefore need not necessarily be a statue to represent "Justice". Mr. Greenleaf stated with regard to Mr. O'Connor's model: "If we are asked to express an opinion as to the suitability of that model as a contribution of the United States to the Peace Palace, I must register my opposition. I feel it is not suitable. I feel it is lacking in some refinement that ought to be typified". Mr. Bacon said: "It does not represent a figure of Justice to me. I think it is a very beautiful piece of work, but it does not have a scintilla of Justice". Also, Mr. Ayres said that to him the model did not represent "Justice". Mr. Mowbray felt the figure should possibly have symbols, such as the wings of the Victory of Samothrace. Mr. Medary called attention to two questions raised by the Secretary of State in his cablegram, -1st, that it "does not seem to convey the idea of impressive dignity or the interpretation of the idea, which the Department has been led to expect; and 2d, as to its suitability for the niche where the statue is to be placed. With regard to the first, the State Department has given no explanation; leaving the Commission to pass upon the suitability of the proposed statue for the niche in the Peace Palace. As to this, Mr. Medary said, "I should say it is vastly superior as an artistic production to the surroundings".

After further discussion, the Commission of Fine Arts determined upon the following:

"The Commission of Fine Arts recognize in the model certain artistic quality, strength, vigor, and individuality, and promising of a statue which would be a splendid work of art, ~~and vastly superior as an artistic production to the surroundings.~~

Mr. Moore stated that coming back from Europe he was in company with Dr. John Bassett Moore, of the International Court at The Hague, to whom he showed the photograph, but that Dr. Moore did not like the figure; that thereupon

he showed the photograph to one of the directors of the Chicago Institute of Fine Arts, who was much pleased with the figure. Mr. Moore said he intended to call on Undersecretary of State Phillips about the matter.

11. ARMSTRONG MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL: Mr. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted a revised design for the Armstrong Manual Training School. With the suggestion that certain changes be made about the entrance, and the steps, and that the break be avoided in the parapet, at the place proposed for the name of the school, the design was approved.

12. BUILDING PLAN FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY: Mr. Harris and Mr. Arthur Heaton, Architect, submitted a tentative building plan for an Arts and Sciences building for the George Washington University, in which they had made a rearrangement of the rooms in the design formerly submitted. A perspective of the building, of the Georgian type of architecture, was also submitted, and the Commission recognized an improvement in the design. Mr. Harris said these designs were only tentative and that they would submit a complete plan later. Mr. Harris said also that the authorities of the George Washington University had definitely decided to stay in their present location, at about 20th & G Streets, N.W., where they own several buildings, and that as they would erect new buildings for the University, they would purchase additional squares for them. (Exhibit E)

13. PURCHASE FOR THE FREER GALLERY OF ART: Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, Associate, of the Freer Gallery of Art, advised by letter of September 12th that Mr. Lodge, Curator, has recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art, a bronze Chinese Cup, concerning which the advice of the Commission was desired.

The Commission visited the Freer Gallery in the afternoon to see the cup. It was found to be a large bronze cup, about 1½ feet in height,

bluish in color and very beautiful in design; made about the year 1200 B.C. The Commission approved the purchase (Exhibit F).

14. PLACING ELECTRIC LIGHTS ALONG THE REFLECTING BASIN: Under date of August 29, 1923, the Commission received the following letter from Lieut.Col. C. O. Sherrill, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds:

"It is desired to obtain the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the advisability of placing electric lights along the outside of the walks on either side of the reflecting pool in West Potomac Park."

The Commission regarded the subject of great importance and visited the Lincoln Memorial in the afternoon to determine upon matters pertaining to it. The recommendations of the Commission were embodied in a report to Colonel Sherrill (Exhibit G).

15. AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN EUROPE: Mr. Moore reported that while in Europe during the past two months he visited all the permanent American Cemeteries in France, and that he found the work developing in a very satisfactory manner (Exhibit H).

16. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Mr. Moore stated that the special meeting of the members of the Commission held in the office of McKim, Mead and White, to inspect the plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge, on September 26th, was very satisfactory. Mr. Fraser stated that important duties in Montreal prevented him from being present at the meeting, but that he would arrange to see the plans immediately on his return to New York City.

17. BARRY FARM SUBDIVISION: The secretary stated that the Barry Farm Citizens Association had submitted a request, by letter of August 11, 1923, that the Commission advise in the matter of highways and park areas for the locality. The Commission made a trip of inspection to Barry Farm subdivision in the afternoon, and reported to the District Commissioners on the subject. (Exhibit I).

C O P Y
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC PRINTER
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1923.

My dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Referring to your letter of July 17, you are advised that in accordance with your wishes cuts contained in the Ninth Annual Report of the Commission of Fine Arts, Jacket No.66941, will not be remelted until specific authority has been received from you to do so.

After careful consideration, it has been decided that the Government Printing Office, through its Superintendent of Documents, will place an order for Chapter II of the Ninth Annual Report of the Commission of Fine Arts showing the plan of the National Capital which we propose to sell to the public at 20 cents a copy. In order to assist this office in the matter, however, it is respectfully requested that the Commission endeavor to advertise this publication as much as possible so that we will experience no difficulty in disposing of the copies which we have printed.

Respectfully,

John Greene,

Acting Public Printer

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

October 6, 1923.

Dear Madam:

With reference to your model for the negro mammy of the South, the Commission of Fine Arts have requested me to inform you that, as Congress has made no provision for a statue to the negro mammy, the model could not be considered officially by the Commission, and that therefore the model should be returned to you.

I am returning the model to you today by the American Railway Express.

Very respectfully, yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mrs. Ethel Leach Carpenter,
3812 Lakeview Avenue,
Birmingham, Alabama.

EXHIBIT B.

C O P Y

October 4, 1923.

Sir:

At their meeting on September 27th, the Commission of Fine Arts conferred with Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, in regard to the statue of General San Martin, which the people of Argentina propose to present to the United States for erection in Washington. After a very full conference it was thought best to await the action of Congress. The usual practice is to have a bill introduced in Congress authorizing the erection of a statue in Washington on a site to be selected by a Commission composed of the Chairman of the Committee on the Library, the Secretary of War, and some other officials. It is usually provided that this Commission shall have the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to location and design of the statue. Further it is the custom of such a Commission to confer with the Commission of Fine Arts, but always to keep the decision as to location and design in their own hands.

It was thought best by Director Rowe and the Commission of Fine Arts to follow this procedure. We trust this decision will be agreeable to you.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

The Honorable

Chairman.

The Secretary of State.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

OFFICE OF
ZANTZINGER, BORIE & MEDARY
ARCHITECTS

112 So. 16th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

October 1, 1923.

Mr. H. P. Gaemmerer, Sec'y.,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gaemmerer:

Referring to our conversation concerning tablets suitable for use in the National Parks, I find that bronze tablets have been made by the following concerns:

Polachek Bronze & Iron Co. 476 Hancock St., Long Island City, N.Y.
Tiffany Studios, 385 Madison Avenue, New York City,
The Gorham Company, New York City,
Chicago Architectural Bronze Co.,
4740 No. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.
Hecla Iron Works, 118 No. 11th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Bureau Brothers, 23rd & Westmoreland Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

all of whom publish catalogues, and you can doubtless get copies of them.

The type of tablet I had in mind can be found in pamphlet No. 9 of "American Art in Bronze and Iron", published by John Williams, Inc., 556 West 27th Street, New York. They have published a number of these pamphlets, and picking up No. 9 at random, I would recommend the tablet on the cover, which is marked 13180; the tablets 934 and 828 on page 5; 263 on page 7; 357 and 258 on page 8; 686 and 875 on page 12, as examples of excellent design in bronze tablets which might well be made the standard for the work contemplated.

I am writing the Williams company, asking them to forward you a copy of this pamphlet, as I find only one in our files.

Very truly yours,

EXHIBIT D.

M. B. Medary, Jr.,

C O P Y

October 8, 1923.

Dear President Lewis:

The architects have presented to the Commission of Fine Arts from time to time preliminary sketches and plans for a new building for the George Washington University. The Commission has considered these plans with the architects and occasionally with the trustees, with the view of giving advice. With your appointment as President, matters are taking a more definite shape, and while the Commission is always ready to advise, we would prefer to have the submissions come through your office, rather than directly from the architects.

The last sketches presented, at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on September 27th, showed a reasonable and satisfactory treatment for the development of an entire square for the purpose of the University. The sketches also showed a tower of considerable elevation and some elaborateness. This tower is considered by the Commission as unnecessary, and it advises that, until such time as the University shall cover a more extended area over which a dominating feature might have significance, the tower be omitted and an entrance, such as is common in the quadrangles of Oxford and Cambridge, be provided.

Very respectfully,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Dr. William Mather Lewis,
President,
The George Washington University,
Washington, D. C.

EX-11077 E.

C O P Y

October 8, 1923.

Dear Mr. Lodge:

In response to your request received through Miss Katharine N. Rhoades of the Freer Gallery, by letter dated September 12, 1923, the Commission of Fine Arts inspected the Chinese bronze cup proposed for purchase. Under the terms of Mr. Freer's will, the Commission of Fine Arts conceives that its duty in passing upon objects proposed to be purchased is confined exclusively to the artistic quality of the objects, and their suitability as parts of the Freer Collection, and not to questions of authenticity or archaeological value, which are best determined by the experts of the Freer Gallery.

The Commission of Fine Arts approves the purchase of the Chinese bronze cup.

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. John Lodge, Curator,
The Freer Gallery of Art,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F.

C O P Y

October 3, 1923.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of August 29, asking the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts "as to the advisability of placing electric lights along the outside of the walks on either side of the reflecting basin" received attention by the Commission at their meeting on September 27th. The Commission visited the Lincoln Memorial and considered the matter on the grounds.

The Commission feel that the lighting about the Reflecting Basin and the Lincoln Memorial is a matter of the utmost importance and is to be determined only after some experiments. What the Commission deprecate is the confusion caused by long rows of unbroken lights coming in at various angles. It seems to the Commission best to have the lights placed between the trees along the outer side of the broad walk, paralleling the Basin, possibly 75 feet apart. This is Mr. Bacon's deliberate judgment and the Commission heartily agree with him in it. In order to determine the particular question the Commission would be pleased to have temporary posts of scantling erected and the lighting tried out.

The standard lamp-post should be the Millet lamp-post, 10 feet 6 inches in height, for lighting the walks along the Reflecting Basin. These lamp-posts are of such a height that the lights will give illumination where it is needed and yet will get under the branches of the trees in a satisfactory manner. The same general principles should be carried out around the Lincoln Memorial and along the roadways leading to it. In this connection your attention is called to the need of trimming some of the field elms along the Reflecting Basin, some of whose branches are growing abnormally.

In respect to the lighting of the driveway around the Lincoln Memorial, in order to determine the matter, some experimental fixtures should be set up, shaded in such a way as to throw the light on the road, so that the actual source of light cannot be seen until one is within the angle of light that lights the road.

The Commission would be pleased to see a scheme of lighting from the Washington Monument down to the Lincoln Memorial, showing also the proposed arrangement of the trees at the end of the Reflecting Basin, especially with regard to the lighting of the steps. It is desired that the scheme include the lighting of the driveways from B Street.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill,

Officer in Charge of

Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT G.

September 27, 1923.

REPORT BY MR. CHARLES MOORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
AS TO THE PERMANENT AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN EUROPE, AFTER A TOUR OF
INSPECTION JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1923.

In company with Major H. L. Green, who has charge of the construction work in connection with the permanent American Cemeteries in Europe, Charles Moore, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, visited the French cemeteries. George Gibbs, Landscape Architect, employed by the War Department at the suggestion of the Commission of Fine Arts, also was of the party. (Mr. Moore returned to Washington September 23, 1923)

The construction work at all the American Cemeteries in Europe is now under contract, substantially in accordance with the plans made by the Commission of Fine Arts two years ago. The contracts have been made within the appropriations by Congress. This includes the necessary buildings, fences, gateways, roads and walks, water supply, and planting of trees and shrubs. While the cemeteries are far from complete at the present time, the progress of the work indicates clearly that the result will be highly satisfactory.

The type of treatment is that of the American Military Cemetery in this country, namely the small headstone, the ample spaces of green grass, and the entire area well shaded, with open grove effect. The approaches to the cemeteries have the simple character prevailing in France, that is, tree-shaded avenues. The buildings are in harmony with the French architecture of the various neighborhoods. Everything has been done to bring about a sense of good order, quiet and appropriateness to the surroundings. There is no elaboration and no striving for unusual effects, but all the possibilities of the landscape have been taken advantage of to give charm and a park-like effect, such as is seen in these older parts of Arlington Cemetery devoted to the soldiers as opposed to the portions occupied by graves of officers, where elaborate monuments create disturbance.

At Suresnes, on the outskirts of Paris, the French Government has been especially liberal by placing at the disposal of the cemetery authorities the entire wooded slope leading up to the French post, Mount Valerien, one of the most conspicuous landmarks in the environs of Paris. Suresnes is designed to be the gem among the American cemeteries, because of the large number of American visitors, especially on Decoration Day and other like occasions. The cemetery is a small one, and in order not to intrude buildings into the graves area a sufficient amount of land on the opposite side of the Boulevard George Washington has been secured and two buildings have been planned, one for the keeper of the cemetery and the other as the headquarters of the Graves Registration Service in France. These two buildings will be connected by a terrace overlooking the Seine and the city of Paris.

At Belleau Wood the graves have been arranged in the form of a segment of a circle at the base of the cliff. The plateau on the heights is owned by the cemetery authorities and the Belleau Wood Memorial Association, and the area so owned comprises the field of battle. The dedication exercises on the 22d of July, as arranged by Mrs. James Carroll Frazer, the president of the Belleau Wood Memorial Association, were singularly impressive, and a dramatic effect was produced when General Foch gave the order for lowering

the French flag and the American flag was run up. General Harbord, who was in command of one of the sections of the American forces during the battle, made a fitting response to General Foch's address and Senator David A. Reed of Pennsylvania made the principal speech of the Day.

Senator Reed is a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which will have charge of the erection of American war memorials along the battle front. Under the law, this Commission is to have the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in all matters relating to materials and designs of monuments. Thus far the cemeteries have been kept entirely free from memorials, thus leaving the Commission full authority.

The largest of the American Cemeteries in France is Romagne, and here the contract has been awarded to men of experience who are bringing to the work a conscientious desire to produce permanent results of a high character. The main road from the town of Romagne to Verdun runs directly through the cemetery. On one side the graves slope up to the crest of the hill, leaving the other side for the administration buildings.

Thus far Congress has made no appropriation for headstones for the American graves in Europe. The wooden cross is still being used and these crosses are being renewed from time to time.

The number of American visitors registered at Belleau Wood during the past year is upwards to 25,000. This does not include the casual sight-seers who go through in motor vans and stop for only a short time.

On the whole the work is progressing in a satisfactory manner, and as soon as the planting is finished and the trees begin to grow, the impressiveness of these cemeteries will be apparent. It is especially fortunate that the construction work is in charge of Major Green, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has had over ten years of experience in the office of John Lawrence Maura, of Saint Louis, former President of the American Institute of Architects. He has both the point of view and the training calculated to secure good architectural effects.

The Commission of Fine Arts has had from the beginning the cooperation of the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department, under Colonel H. R. Casey, and the utmost harmony has prevailed.

EXHIBIT H.

C O P Y

October 4, 1923.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 27, 1923, gave consideration to a request of the Barry Farm Citizens Association, for advice as to the proposed lay-out and highway plan for the Barry Farm subdivision, and made a tour of inspection through Barry Farm. The Commission recommend the following:

1. That the general plan of the District Surveyor to widen the streets to 50 feet be carried out.
2. That all of Square No.5868, north of the proposed road to connect Stanton and Summer roads, be acquired and developed as a park and playground.
3. That Summer Road be widened to at least 50 feet and paved from Nichols Avenue to Bolling Field.
4. That Sheridan road and Stanton road, between Nichols Avenue and Alabama Avenue, be widened to 50 feet and developed to meet present traffic requirements.
5. That a road be built from the south end of the Anacostia Bridge west, along the reclaimed area, to connect with the driveway to the Naval Air Station.

The Commission regard these improvements as needful for the community and hope they may be provided in the near future.

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I.

